

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the interview of October 6, 2005, during which the form and language of the present claims were discussed. Applicants note that the Examiner provided an Interview Summary at the conclusion of the interview.

In the present application Claims 1, 5, 18, 20, 46, and 47-50 are currently pending. Claims 1, 18, and 20 are hereby amended. Claim amendments have been made without prejudice to later introduction of deleted subject matter in related applications. Newly-introduced Claims 47-50 reflect the discussion held during the interview with the Examiner and are fully supported by the specification as detailed hereinbelow.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 18, 20, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement as containing new matter. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 20 to address those concerns of the Examiner, as discussed during the interview of October 6, 2005. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection are respectfully requested.

As further discussed during the interview of October 6, 2005, Applicants have introduced Claims 47-50. Support for Claims 47-50 may be found in paragraph 114 of the present specification.

Various nucleic acid probes and primers specific for RGS4 (derived from or complementary to SEQ ID NOS. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8) may also be useful in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and are included within the present invention. Among these are a nucleic acid probe complementary to portions or the entirety of human RGS4 gene as well as a nucleic acid probe complementary to human altered RGS4 gene sequences wherein said nucleic acid probe hybridizes to a variant of the RGS4 gene

under hybridization conditions which prevent hybridizing of said nucleic acid probe to a wild-type RGS4 gene. Probes that are complementary to portions or the entirety of the RGS4 coding region and flanking regions that contain SNPs may also be used in these diagnostic tests. Any primer which makes it possible to amplify a fragment of the RGS4 coding region or flanking regions also forms part of the present invention. The primers that are used within the context of the invention can be synthesized by any technique known to the skilled person. The primers can also be labeled by any technique known to the skilled person.

It is respectfully submitted that paragraph 114 of the present specification supports newly-introduced Claims 47-50 and that they are in form for allowance.

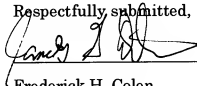
The Examiner rejected Claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for using the language "corresponds." Applicants have amended Claims 18 and 20 to address that concern of the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification as containing certain informalities. The specification has been amended to address those concerns of the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection are respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is requested. If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Dated: October 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Frederick H. Colen  
Reg. No. 28,061

James G. Dilmore  
Reg. No. 51,618

REED SMITH LLP  
P.O. Box 488  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0488  
(412) 288-4164

Attorney/Agent for Applicants